ABSTRACT

Seed longevity was studied in the two species of wild sesame by ageing them at 50 °C and 60% RH in an oven. This was meant to generate information to guide collection, evaluation and management of seed accessions for *ex-situ* conservation of the wild species. Sampling was done at predetermined intervals and germination carried out on 1% water agar at 35/15 °C alternating temperature and 12/12 h photoperiod. Germination was scored as emergence of radicle and seed survival data subjected to probit analysis to derive seed longevity parameters and survival curves. Results indicated that *Sesamum angustifolium* and *Sesamum angolense* are long-lived species with no inter-specific differences. However, freshly harvested seeds were shown to be short-lived relative to the pre-banked samples and probable reasons are attributed.